

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 /101 W

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R 171650Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9154

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL CALGARY VIA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, VN

SUBJ: PETRO-CANADA MAY AID OIL PROJECT IN VIETNAM

1. OTTAWA JOURNAL OF MARCH 16 CARRIED PEKING DATELINE INTERVIEW (ROSS MUNRO) WITH PETRO-CANADA PRESIDENT MAURICE STRONG REGARDING HIS TRAVEL TO HANOI. STRONG STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO HANOI BY THE VIETNAMESE TO HOLD EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING VIETNAM'S OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS. "I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO READ INTO THIS THAT PETRO-CANADA WILL BE TEARING AROUND THE WORLD GIVING PRIORITY TO FOREIGN OPERATIONS -- IT JUST ISN'T TRUE. WE EXPLAINED TO THE VIETNAMESE THAT INTERNATIONAL OPERATION ARE NOT A HIGH PRIORITY FOR US AT THIS STAGE, BUT THEY STILL WANTED US TO COME". NEVERTHELESS, STRONG REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT VIETNAM WILL POSSIBLY ASK PETRO-CANADA TO ORGANIZE AND LEAD A CONSORTIUM OF PRIVATE CANADIAN OIL COMPANIES TO DEVELOPE VIETNAM'S OIL RESOURCES.

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2. THE OTHER REASON FOR THE HANOI TRIP, STRONG SAID, IS TO INQUIRE INTO WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR THOSE CANADIAN COMPANIES WHICH HAS BEEN AWARDED SUBSTANTIAL OFFSHORE OIL LEASES BY THE FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. (THESE FIRMS ARE NORCEN AND SUNNINGDALE ACCORDING TO THE NEWS STORY.)

3. STRONG IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT, IF PETRO-CANADA GOT A CONTRACT TO HELP DEVELOP THE FIELDS, IT WOULD SERVE AS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF HOW A GOVERNMENT COMPANY COULD AID THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO EXTAFF SOURCE, STRONG WAS IN PEKING SOLELY BECAUSE IT WAS A CONVENIENT AIRLINE TRANSFER POINT ON HIS TRIP FROM EUROPE TO HANOI.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 17 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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